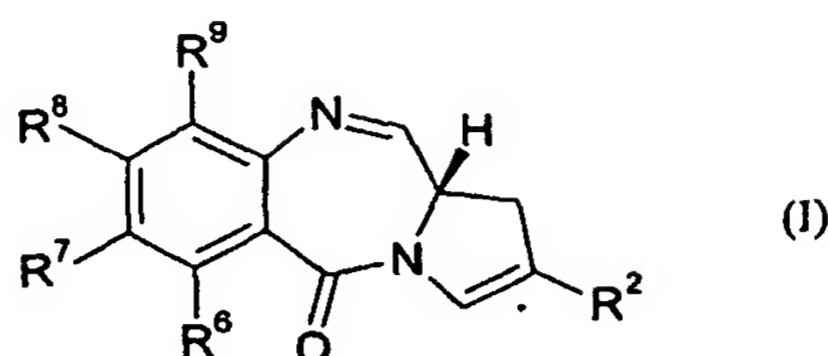


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):



5 and salts, solvates, chemically protected forms, and prodrugs thereof, wherein:

R^6 , R^7 and R^9 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH_2 , NHR, NHRR', nitro, Me_3Sn and halo;

where R and R' are independently selected from optionally

10 substituted C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{3-20} heterocyclyl and C_{5-20} aryl groups;

R^8 is selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH_2 , NHR, NHRR', nitro, Me_3Sn and halo, or the compound is a dimer with each monomer being of formula (I), where the R^8 groups of each monomers form together a dimer bridge having the formula $-X-R''-X-$ linking the monomers,

15 where R'' is a C_{3-12} alkylene group, which chain may be interrupted by one or more heteroatoms, e.g. O, S, NH, and/or aromatic rings, e.g. benzene or pyridine, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or NH;

or any pair of adjacent groups from R^6 to R^9 together form a group

20 $-O-(CH_2)_p-O-$, where p is 1 or 2; and

R^2 is selected from:

(i) an optionally substituted naphthyl group;

(ii) an optionally substituted thiophenyl or furanyl group; and

(iii) a phenyl group substituted by:

25 (a) one or more chloro or fluoro groups;

(b) an ethyl or propyl group;

(c) a 4-t-butyl group;

(d) a 2-methyl group; or

(e) two methyl groups in the 2- and 6- positions.

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2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is selected from:

(i) an optionally substituted naphthyl group;

(ii) an optionally substituted thiophenyl or furanyl group; and
(iii) a phenyl group substituted by:

- (a) one or more chloro or fluoro groups;
- (b) an ethyl or propyl group;
- 5 (c) a 4-t-butyl group; or
- (d) a 2-methyl group.

3. A compound according to claim 2, wherein R^2 is selected from:

- 10 (i) an optionally substituted naphthyl group;
- (ii) an optionally substituted thiophenyl group; and
- (iii) a phenyl group substituted by:
 - (a) one or more chloro or fluoro groups;
 - (b) an ethyl or propyl group;
 - 15 (c) a 4-t-butyl group; or
 - (d) a 2-methyl group.

4. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein R^9 is H.

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5. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein R^6 is H.

6. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein
25 R^7 and R^8 (when the compound is not a dimer) are selected from OMe and OCH_2Ph .

7. A compound of any one of claims 1 to 7 for use in a method of therapy.

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8. A pharmaceutical composition containing a compound of any one of claims 1 to 7, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

35 9. The use of a compound of any one of claims 1 to 7 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a proliferative disease.

10. A method of treatment of a proliferative disease, comprising administering to a subject in need of treatment a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound of any one of claims 1 to 7.